CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for Short Message Services (SMS) provisioning in a system including a Home Location Register (HLR), a Message Center (MC), and a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) including a Mobile Switching Center point code scheme, comprising the steps of:

storing location data for said MSC in said HLR;

receiving a request from said MC to deliver a SMS message to said MSC;

determining a MC point code scheme for said MC;

comparing the MC point code scheme with the MSC point code scheme;

populating said SMS message with the MSC point code scheme if the MSC and MC point code schemes are the same; and

delivering said SMS message from said MC to said MSC.

2. A method for Short Message Services (SMS) provisioning in a system including a Home Location Register (HLR), a Message Center (MC), a Mobile Switching Center (MSC), including a Mobile Switching Center point code scheme, comprising the steps of:

storing location data for said MSC in said HLR, wherein said location data includes at least one Mobile Switching Center Identification Number (MSCIN) parameter;

receiving a request from said MC to deliver a SMS message to said MSC;

determining a MC point code scheme for said MC;

comparing the MC point code scheme with the MSC point code scheme;

populating said SMS message with the MSC point code scheme if the MSC and MC point code schemes are the same;

otherwise, populating said SMS message with the MSCIN parameter; and

delivering said SMS message from said MC to said MSC.

3. A method for Short Message Services (SMS) provisioning in a system including a Home Location Register (HLR), a Message Center (MC), a Mobile Switching Center (MSC), including a Mobile Switching Center point code scheme, comprising the steps of:

storing location data for said MSC, wherein said location data includes a SMS address in said HLR and wherein said location data does not contain a MSCIN parameter;

receiving a request from said MC to deliver a SMS message to said MSC;

determining a MC point code scheme for said MC;

comparing the MC point code scheme with the MSC point code scheme;

populating said SMS message with the MSC point code scheme if the MSC and MC point code schemes are the same; and

delivering said SMS message from said MC to said MSC.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the MSCIN parameter is in Global Title Address (GTA) format.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said GTA format uses an E.212 identifier.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein said GTA format uses an E.164 identifier.

7. The method of Claim 4, wherein said GTA format uses a combination of said E.212 and E.164 identifiers.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said HLR has a database including at least one country code and at least one corresponding point code scheme.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said point code scheme is specified according to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard-41.

10. The method of Claim 8, wherein said point code scheme is specified according to International Telecommunication Union (ITU) standard Q.700.

11. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of comparing the MC point code scheme with the MSC point code scheme occurs in said database in said HLR.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of determining the MC point code scheme further includes the step of determining a nationality of the MC.

13. A node for determining whether a Message Center (MC) and a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) share a common point code, comprising:

a memory including a database having a plurality of point code schemes and a corresponding plurality of country codes.

14. The node of Claim 13 wherein the node is a Home Location Register (HLR).